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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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(54) Title: COMBUSTION UNIT FOR COMBUSTING A LIQUID FUEL AND A POWER GENERATING SYSTEM COMPRISING SUCH COMBUSTION UNIT (54) Titre: UNITE DE COMBUSTION DESTINEE A LA COMBUSTION D'UN CARBURANT LIQUIDE ET SYSTEME DE PRODUCTION D'ENERGIE COMPRENANT CETTE UNITE DE COMBUSTION		
(57) Abstract <p>The invention relates to a combustion unit for combusting a liquid fuel, comprising a fuel inlet, an air inlet and a flue gas outlet which are connected to a combustion chamber for combusting the fuel, wherein the fuel inlet is connected to at least one explosion atomizing unit which is disposed and adapted such that atomized fuel fragments due to gas formation in the atomized fuel, wherein the explosion atomizing unit is preferably an explosion swirl atomizing unit, and to a system for generating power, comprising at least one gas turbine, at least one compression device driven by the gas turbine and at least one such combustion unit.</p>		
(57) Abrégé <p>L'invention concerne une unité de combustion destinée à la combustion d'un carburant liquide, comprenant une admission de carburant, une admission d'air et une sortie de gaz de combustion lesquelles sont reliées à une chambre de combustion destinée à la combustion du carburant, l'admission de carburant est reliée à au moins une unité d'atomisation d'explosion laquelle est disposée et adaptée pour former des fragments de carburant atomisé par la formation de gaz dans le carburant atomisé, dans laquelle l'unité d'atomisation d'explosion est de préférence une unité d'atomisation d'explosion tourbillonnaire, ainsi qu'un système de production d'énergie comprenant au moins une turbine à gaz, au moins un dispositif de compression commandé par la turbine à gaz ainsi qu'au moins une unité de combustion précitée.</p>		

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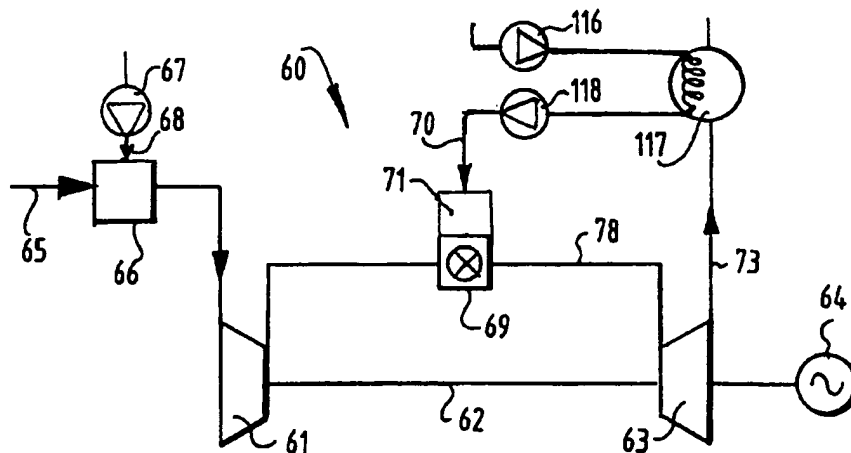
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(54) Title: COMBUSTION UNIT FOR COMBUSTING A LIQUID FUEL AND A POWER GENERATING SYSTEM COMPRISING SUCH COMBUSTION UNIT



(57) Abstract

The invention relates to a combustion unit for combusting a liquid fuel, comprising a fuel inlet, an air inlet and a flue gas outlet which are connected to a combustion chamber for combusting the fuel, wherein the fuel inlet is connected to at least one explosion atomizing unit which is disposed and adapted such that atomized fuel fragments due to gas formation in the atomized fuel, wherein the explosion atomizing unit is preferably an explosion swirl atomizing unit, and to a system for generating power, comprising at least one gas turbine, at least one compression device driven by the gas turbine and at least one such combustion unit.

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Description

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COMBUSTION UNIT FOR COMBUSTING A LIQUID FUEL AND A POWER
GENERATING SYSTEM COMPRISING SUCH COMBUSTION UNIT

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The present invention relates to a combustion unit for combusting a liquid fuel and to a system for generating power comprising such a combustion unit.

15

In the combustion of liquid fuel, in particular engine fuels such as petrol, kerosine, diesel and methanol, it is important that at the time of the combustion the fuel is present in the smallest possible particles. The smaller the fuel particles, the more homogeneous a combustion results. A more homogeneous combustion is associated with less soot formation and soot emission as well as less CO formation and emission.

25

It is therefore the object to introduce the smallest possible fuel droplets into the combustion chamber. Known combustion units are characterized by assorted additional means for obtaining the smallest possible fuel droplets in the combustion chamber at the moment of combustion.

30

The present invention has for its object to provide a combustion unit for combusting liquid fuel which is provided with means for carrying into the combustion chamber very small liquid fuel particles (median size $< 5 \mu\text{m}$, generally $< 3 \mu\text{m}$, preferably $< 2 \mu\text{m}$, such as $1.2 \mu\text{m}$). This while a sufficient supply of these very small liquid fuel particles can be ensured and the means for obtaining these very small liquid fuel particles have a relatively simple construction and can be added in relatively simple manner to existing combustion units.

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25 means for obtaining these very small liquid fuel particles have a relatively simple construction and can be added in relatively simple manner to existing combustion units.

45

This is achieved according to the invention with a combustion unit for combusting a liquid fuel, comprising a fuel inlet, an air inlet and a flue gas outlet which are connected to a combustion chamber for combusting the fuel, wherein the fuel inlet is connected

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5 to at least one explosion atomizing unit which is
disposed and adapted such that atomized fuel fragments
due to gas formation in the atomized fuel.

10 The means for realizing these very small liquid
5 fuel particles consist of explosion atomizing units.

15 All known types of atomizer can in principle be
used in the explosion atomizing unit. Swirl atomizers,
slot atomizers, hole atomizers, rotating plate or bowl
atomizers and optionally pen atomizers are for instance
20 suitable. All that is important is that the atomizer
generates droplets or a film of liquid fuel to the
gaseous medium under changed conditions such that
explosion atomizing then occurs. Explosion atomizing
entails the liquid fuel entering the combustion chamber
25 under conditions such that as a result of the pressure
drop over the atomizer boiling or gas bubbles occur in
the droplets or film of the liquid fuel. That is, gas
formation occurs in the liquid fuel. This so-called
flashing or precipitation results in the droplets or film
30 of fuel exploding or fragmenting due to the sudden
partial boiling or gas precipitation. This fragmentation
results in very small droplets of fuel being generated in
the gaseous medium. The median dimension of fuel
particles amounts after fragmentation to less than 5 μm ,
35 generally less than 3 μm , preferably less than 2 μm , for
instance 1.2 μm .

40 It is noted that the explosion atomizing unit
does not have to deliver the atomized liquid fuel
directly into the combustion chamber. It is sufficient
30 that the generated fuel droplets finally enter the
combustion chamber without an undesirably large droplet
growth having taken place as a consequence of
coalescence.

45 The invention allows the use in the atomizing
35 means of all types of atomizers insofar as these can
result in particles with said median size after
fragmentation. It is important in this respect that the
50 explosion atomizing units are disposed and adapted such

5 that the atomized fuel fragments through gas formation in the atomized fuel.

Use is preferably made of an explosion swirl atomizing unit which is provided with swirl atomizers. In
10 5 such a known swirl atomizer a swirling movement is imparted to the liquid fuel in a swirl chamber. The swirling fuel exits from an outlet opening. It has been found that the thickness of the exiting layer of fuel is
15 a fraction (for instance 10%) of the diameter of the outlet passage. Due to the subsequent explosion
10 fragmentation, particles are obtained (depending on the pressure drop, temperature and passage diameter) with a
20 median dimension of 5 μm or smaller.

It will be apparent that in order to realize
15 this fragmentation it is important that the conditions (and particularly change in conditions) under which the liquid fuel is atomized are optimal for fragmentation.
25 Important conditions for flash-fragmentation are the temperature of the fuel, the atomizing pressure under
20 which the fuel is atomized, the pressure drop during exit and the passage diameter. It is therefore recommended
30 that the explosion atomizing unit comprises means for adjusting the temperature of the evaporating agent and/or the atomizing pressure.

35 25 In the case of retrofit of the above stated combustion unit, it is possible to integrate a configuration of a number of explosion atomizing units into a new or modified air inlet, or to have these
40 explosion atomizing units debouch directly into the combustion chamber. By orienting the outlet passage of
30 each explosion atomizing unit it is possible to atomize the fuel such that it is optimal for the forming of the mixture of fuel and air for combustion. Particularly
45 recommended are swirl atomizers and slot or hole atomizers since these have a very simple construction,
35 can be readily miniaturized and built into existing combustion units. Very large numbers of explosion
50 atomizing units can thus be incorporated without too many

5 modifications of an existing combustion unit, which
offers great freedom in the choice of fuel flow rate to
the combustion chamber. Retrofit of existing combustion
units thus results in combustion units which can be
10 5 converted at lower cost and which nevertheless realize a
greatly improved combustion with a lower soot and NO_x
emission.

As stated, liquid fuel can be applied as fuel.
15 The liquid state herein refers to the state of the fuel
10 at the temperature and pressure prevailing in the fuel
inlet. This means that fuels can be used which are
gaseous in ambient conditions. Fuels such as diesel and
20 petrol have a boiling range. This means that in order to
realize the explosion atomizing a temperature must be
15 chosen from the boiling range such that a significant
flash effect occurs. For diesel oil a temperature can be
25 chosen of 350°C. For kerosine/petrol a lower fuel
temperature can be chosen (250/150°C). A higher fuel
temperature, such as 400°C, can be chosen for low-speed
20 marine diesel engines. It is noted however that these
30 temperatures can vary depending on the pressure applied
and optional fuel additives which have a positive effect
on the explosion atomizing. It will be apparent that in
order to realize an optimal explosion atomizing a
35 25 combustion unit will preferably be equipped with means
for adjusting the temperature and the atomizing pressure
of the fuel.

If in further preference the temperature-
40 adjusting means adjust the temperature of the evaporating
30 agent around or to the critical temperature, the
evaporating agent acquires a surface tension of
practically or equal to 0 N/m². This means that no further
45 or little atomizing energy is required to atomize the
liquid, whereby the droplet size will become extremely
35 small (a median droplet dimension to 0.1 μm is possible
here) and the use of other agents to decrease the surface
50 tension can optionally be dispensed with.

5 In addition to said physical conditions for
fragmentation, it is also possible to enhance
fragmentation by chemical or physical additives to the
fuel. It is therefore recommended to add agents to the
10 5 fuel which reduce the surface tension of the fuel and
thereby decrease the energy required for fragmentation.
Detergents and the like can be used as surface tension-
reducing agents. Preferred are those surface tension-
15 10 reducing agents which do not remain only on the surface
of the fuel droplet but which are distributed almost
homogeneously through the fuel (droplet or film). It is
thereby not required that, after atomizing and prior to
20 fragmentation, the surface tension be reduced to a lesser
extent as a result of diffusion. In these conditions it
15 is recommended to use fatty acids, particularly shorter
fatty acids and optionally alcohols such as methanol and
25 ethanol. These latter agents are particularly recommended
because of a relatively low boiling point and good
combustion. Thus is avoided that the combustion process
20 is affected in a negative sense by these additives.

30 According to another embodiment the fuel
contains combustible and/or vaporizable substances which
either reduce the surface tension of the fuel or enhance
the gas formation in the fuel as a result of the pressure
35 25 drop over the atomizer. Combustible and/or vaporizable
substances can particularly be used here which have a
boiling point lower than the boiling point of the fuel.
This should be understood to mean that in the case of a
40 boiling range of the fuel, and optionally of the
30 evaporating agent, these ranges are chosen such that the
evaporating agent makes an essential contribution to the
gas formation and ultimately the fragmentation of the
45 fuel. When a number or mixture of evaporating agents are
used, the vaporizable substances with the lowest boiling
35 point will suddenly evaporate first and form boiling
bubbles due to the pressure drop when passing through the
50 explosion atomizing unit, whereby liquid fuel explodes or
fragments into small droplets. A mixture can for instance

5 be used of diesel oil as fuel and water as evaporating
agent. Superheated evaporating agent (water) can also be
used as evaporating agent (for instance water) and can be
10 applied particularly in oil-fired boilers for generating
5 steam. In which case fuel and superheated water can also
be introduced separately into the boiler by explosion
atomizing. The additional advantage is realized here that
15 through the evaporation of the water the temperature of
the mixture is lower prior to combustion, during
10 combustion and after combustion, which enhances the
performance of the combustion unit and reduces the
emission of CO and NO_x.

20 The combustion unit can be applied in a
combustion engine, for instance a gas engine, petrol
15 engine or diesel engine. In addition, the combustion unit
can be incorporated in a system for generating power
25 which comprises a compression device driven by a gas
turbine and the combustion unit according to the
invention in which fuel and air compressed by the
20 compression device are combusted and fed to the gas
turbine.
30

It will be apparent that it is very
advantageous in this respect if explosion atomizing units
are used in the compression device to atomize determined
35 25 evaporating agents with a comparably higher evaporation
energy (for instance water). A quasi-isothermal
compression is hereby obtained whereby the compression
work is reduced considerably. In the case the combustion
40 unit is provided with a compression chamber and a
30 combustion chamber, the explosion atomizing unit for the
fuel can be connected to the combustion chamber and an
explosion atomizing unit for evaporating agent for the
45 purpose of evaporation cooling can be connected to the
compression chamber.

35 During the compression stroke and the firing
stroke of the combustion engine an optional quasi-
50 isothermal compression, and in any case an optimal
combustion, can thus take place. It is further

5 recommended in the case of evaporation cooling that
between a compression chamber and a combustion chamber of
the combustion engine at least one pressure vessel is
10 5 received which is in heat-exchanging contact with a
combustion gas outlet of the combustion engine. It is
thus possible in the cool compressed air to recuperate
heat from the heat of the flue gases. If the residence
15 time in the pressure vessel is too short, a number of
pressure vessels can be applied in parallel or a
10 relatively large pressure vessel in combination with a
number of combustion chambers.

20 Mentioned and other features of the combustion
unit and the power-generating system according to the
invention will be further elucidated hereinbelow with
15 reference to a number of embodiments which are given by
way of example without the invention having to be deemed
25 limited thereto.

In the drawing:

figure 1 shows a schematic view of an explosion
20 swirl atomizer;

30 figure 2 shows a schematic representation of a
diesel engine according to the invention with turbo-
charger;

35 figure 3 shows a variant of the diesel engine
25 of figure 2;

figures 4-6 each show a schematic
representation of a combustion engine according to the
invention;

40 figure 7 shows a schematic representation of a
30 power-generating system according to the invention;

45 figure 8 shows another power-generating system
according to the invention according to the TOPHAT
principle (TOP humidified air turbine); and

35 figure 9 shows another power-generating system
according to the invention according to the TOPHACE
principle (TOP humidified air combustion engine).

50 Figure 1 shows an explosion swirl atomizer 1
such as is applied in a combustion unit according to the

invention. The explosion swirl atomizer 1 comprises a line 2 with which fuel 3 (and/or optional evaporating agent) is fed via a tangential opening 4 to a swirl chamber 5. The liquid acquires a swirling movement 6 in swirl chamber 5 and leaves atomizer 1 via an outlet opening (or passage). The swirling fuel exits in the form of a cone. The thickness of the layer of fuel herein decreases and as a consequence of fragmentation breaks up into very small droplets. It can clearly be seen that the thickness of the layer of fuel is smaller than the diameter of outlet opening 7 of swirl chamber 5 when the exiting liquid exhibits flashed or gas precipitation through sudden pressure decrease, the cone and the particles then fragment into extremely small droplets, the so-called explosion atomizing. The thickness of the cone layer and the size of the formed droplet depends on the degree of explosion atomizing, and thus on the degree of gas formation in the cone layer. The physical conditions which are important herefor are the pressure and the temperature of the fuel and the prevailing pressure and temperature in the space into which the swirling atomized fuel is delivered. It is thus possible to influence the number and size of the formed atomized fuel particles by the choice of these conditions.

Figure 2 shows a diesel engine 8 according to the invention comprising six combustion units or cylinders 9 according to the invention. Diesel oil is supplied via a pump 10 and a line 11 to an explosion atomizing unit 12 which can consist of a suitable number of chosen explosion atomizers as shown in figure 1. The diesel oil has a temperature and pressure suitable for the explosion atomizing. Air is supplied via a line 13 to a compressor 14 which is driven by a gas turbine 16 via a shaft 15.

Added to gas turbine 16 is the flue gas from cylinders 9 which is fed via a line 17 to gas turbine 16 and via a line 18 to the chimney 19.

5 Air compressed in compressor 14 is fed via
lines 20 to the combustion chamber 21 of each cylinder 9.

10 Figure 3 shows a diesel engine 22 corresponding
5 with the same reference numerals. A first difference
however is that the air compressed in compressor 14 is
not fed via line 20 to combustion chamber 21 but to the
15 explosion atomizing unit 12. This produces an optimum mix
of fuel and air. If the air still contains evaporating
20 agent particles (water particles), a quasi-isothermal
compression is still even possible in cylinder 9.

20 Secondly, an explosion atomizing unit 23 is
received in line 13. Through explosion atomizing water is
supplied herein to the air, whereby a quasi-isothermal
25 evaporation occurs in compressor 14. The water required
is fed via a line 24 to a heat exchanger 25 in which it
is in heat-exchanging contact with the flue gas leaving
25 gas turbine 16. The heated water is fed under pressure
via a pump 26 to explosion atomizing unit 23.

30 Diesel engines 8 and 22 shown in figures 2 and
3 can be used as low-speed marine diesel engines.

35 Figure 4 shows a combustion engine 27 according
to the invention which is provided with a compression
chamber 28 and a combustion chamber 29. Compression
25 chamber 28 is provided with an air inlet 30 with an inlet
valve 31. Compression chamber 28 further comprises an
explosion atomizing unit 32 for supplying coolant (for
instance water) via line 33. Quasi-isothermal compression
40 can thus be achieved by evaporation cooling. Via an
outlet 35 provided with a valve 34 the compression
chamber 28 is connected to a pressure vessel 36 which is
provided with a heat exchanger 37. Pressure vessel 36 is
45 connected via line 38 and a valve 39 to combustion
chamber 29, which is further provided with an explosion
35 atomizing unit 40 for fuel supplied via line 41 and an
ignition unit 42. Via a valve 43 and an outlet 44 exhaust
50 gases are discharged via heat exchangers 45, 37 and 46.

5 The operation of combustion engine 27 is as
follows. At one bar and a temperature of 27°C water is
atomized via explosion atomizing unit 32 in compression
chamber 28, wherein quasi-isothermal compression takes
10 5 place to 44 bar and 220°C. Valves 34 and 39 open and
pressure vessel 36 and combustion chamber 29 are filled
during the latter part of the stroke of piston 47. Valves
34 and 39 then close. The air present in pressure vessel
15 36 is heated against the exhaust gases passing through
20 10 heat exchanger 37. In pressure vessel 36 the air is
heated to a temperature of 300°C and finally flushed into
combustion chamber 29 via valve 39.

20 Fuel is injected simultaneously via explosion
atomizing unit 40, whereafter ignition and expansion then
15 take place in combustion chamber 29. During the return
stroke of piston 48 the exhaust gases are discharged via
25 valve 43 and used for heat exchange with the fuel, the
compressed air and the water for injecting.

 It will be apparent that in combustion engine
20 29 fuel is likewise injected via explosion atomizing unit
30 40 and coolant via explosion atomizing unit 32.

 The use of combustion engine 27 achieves that
minimal compression work is performed, while the
recuperation of low temperature heat is realized for
35 25 preheating of air, water and/or fuel.

 In the case the residence time in the pressure
vessel is insufficient for an optimal heating of the
compressed gas, it is recommended that the pressure
40 vessel be embodied in the form of a number of pressure
30 vessels connected in parallel between compression chamber
28 and combustion chamber 29.

 If the quasi-isothermal compression is
45 performed by injecting a mixture of water/fuel (for
instance water/ methanol), the evaporation cooling can
35 then be supplemented by extraction of heat resulting from
the cracking of the fuel. In order to perform this
50 cracking reaction of the fuel it is necessary for a
cracking catalyst to be incorporated in the pressure

5 vessel (for instance CuO for methanol or zeolite for
petrol). Important are an adequate reaction time in the
order of one second and a sufficiently high cracking
10 temperature for methanol of 250-300°C and for petrol of
5 475-675°C.

It will be apparent that by arranging a
separation between the compression chamber and the
combustion/ expansion chamber using the pressure vessel,
15 an optimization of the energy efficiency can be realized
10 in conditions of variable power requirement by making use
of the accumulated energy. A hybrid motor with compressed
air storage can optionally even be applied.

20 Figure 5 shows a combustion unit 49 according
to the invention.

15 Via the rotating compressor 50 air is supplied
via inlet 51, while a water/fuel mixture is atomized with
25 an explosion atomizing unit 52. Connected to pressure
vessel 58 are combustion chambers 53 which each take in
the compressed mixture of air/fuel via a line 54, while
20 additional fuel is supplied via inlet 55. The mixture is
30 ignited using ignition 56. Exhaust gases leave combustion
chamber 53 via outlet 57. Using a heat exchanger 59 heat-
exchange takes place with the mixture of air/fuel present
in pressure vessel 58. By making use of the large
35 pressure vessel 58 and a plurality of combustion chambers
there is significantly more time for heating of the
mixture present in pressure vessel 58 using the exhaust
gases.

40 Figure 6 shows a combustion engine 60
30 comprising a cylinder 61 with a piston 62 in addition to
an air inlet 63 and a flue gas outlet 65. Cylinder 61 is
further provided with plasma electrodes 66 which are
45 connected to power electronics 68 for generating a plasma
in the head of cylinder 61. During the compression a
35 fuel/water mixture is fed via the explosion atomizing
unit 69, not shown in detail, for the quasi-isothermal
compression. The plasma arc is subsequently generated to
50 heat the compressed air and the ignition of the fuel

5 mixture, and after the expansion stroke of piston 62 the
flue gases are expelled via outlet 65 and drive the
turbine 70 while generating power which is used partially
by the power electronics.

10 5 Figure 7 shows a system 60 for generating
power. System 60 comprises a compressor 61 which is
driven via a shaft 62 by gas turbine 63 which in turn
drives a generator 64.

15 Air is supplied to compressor 61 via a line 65
10 and water is supplied in an explosion atomizing unit 66
via the line 68 provided with a pump 67. The air
compressed in compressor 61 is fed to a combustion unit
20 69 according to the invention, to which via a line 70
preheated fuel is supplied at pressure via pump 116, heat
15 exchanger 117 and pump 118 and atomized in an explosion
atomizing unit 71 before being fed to combustion unit 69.
25 The fuel is brought to pressure with pump 116 and
preheated via heat-exchange against the flue gas from
line 73 in heat exchanger 117, and brought to or above
20 the critical temperature or, in the case of a boiling
30 range for the fuel, within the range of critical
temperatures of the fuel components. Via line 72 flue gas
is fed to turbine 63 and after expansion discharged via
line 73.

35 25 Figure 8 shows another system 74 for generating
power according to the invention in accordance with the
so-called TOPHAT principle. In an explosion unit 75 air
74 is provided with water droplets with water 77 supplied
40 by means of explosion atomizing. The air is supplied to a
30 compressor 78 which is connected via a shaft 79 to a gas
turbine 80 which drives a generator 81. Evaporation
cooling of the water droplets takes place in compressor
45 78. The cool compressed air passes through a heat
exchanger 83 via a line 82 and is fed to combustion unit
35 84. Fuel is preheated at pre-pressure via pump 120 in
heat exchanger 121 and brought under pressure by pump 122
50 and after explosion atomizing in explosion atomizing unit
93 supplied via line 85 to combustion unit 84. The added

5 fuel is at a pressure and temperature such that when it
enters the combustion chamber of combustion unit 84 fuel-
flash takes place, resulting in an extremely fine
atomizing of the fuel. The flue gas from gas turbine 80
10 5 passes through heat exchanger 83 via line 86 for heat-
exchanging contact with the cool compressed air from
compressor 78. Via line 87 the flue gas passes through a
heat exchanger 88 and condenser 87 on its way to chimney
15 92. In condenser 89 water is condensed out of the flue
10 gas and guided under pressure via pump 90 through heat
exchanger 88, whereafter the water 77 reaches explosion
atomizing unit 75 under pressure and at temperature. The
20 condensation water from condenser 89 can optionally be
replenished with water via line 91.

15 Finally, figure 9 shows a system 94 according
to the invention for generating power in accordance with
the TOPHACE principle.
25

Via a pump 95 water (140-250°C, 150 bar) is fed
to an explosion atomizing unit 96 to which air is
20 likewise fed via line 97 (15°C). From the explosion
atomizing unit 96 the air reaches a compressor 98 which
30 operates at an efficiency of 0.8. The compressed air
(140°C) is fed via line 99 to a heat exchanger 100 for
heat-exchanging contact with the flue gases of a
35 25 combustion engine 101. This latter comprises four
cylinders 102, an air inlet 103 of which connects to line
99 via a valve 104. A flue gas outlet 105 of each
cylinder 102 passes through heat exchanger 100 and is
40 carried via line 106 through a heat exchanger 107 and
30 enters the chimney 92 via condenser 89. In condenser 89
is formed condensation 108 which after passing through a
water cleaner 109 is brought to pre-pressure with pump
45 110 and fed via heat exchanger 107 to pump 95 and brought
to pressure.

35 Fuel is fed to each cylinder 102 via pump 111,
line 117 and explosion atomizing unit 112 and valves (not
50 shown). The fuel is preheated to or beyond the critical
temperature or, in the case of a boiling range, to within

5 the range of critical temperatures, before being atomized
with explosion atomizing unit 112.

10 In the recuperator 100 the air is heated from
5 140°C to 377°C, while the flue gas from cylinders 102 re-
cools from 465°C to 210°C. The air is fed at a pressure
of 9 bar to cylinders 102 and atomized fuel is injected.
Cylinders 102 are also embodied with an igniter 119 for
15 igniting the mixture in each cylinder 102. Cylinders 102
are each equipped with a piston 113, which are connected
10 to a shaft 114 which is connected via a 1:5 gear system
115 to the shaft 114 of compressor 98 and on the other
side to the generator 116.

20 Under ideal conditions the system 94 produces
power of 226 kilowatts at an efficiency of 64%. A known
15 apparatus according to the Atkinson principle produces a
power of only 170 kilowatts at an efficiency of 48%.

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Claims

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CLAIMS

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1. Combustion unit for combusting a liquid fuel, comprising a fuel inlet, an air inlet and a flue gas outlet which are connected to a combustion chamber for combusting the fuel, wherein the fuel inlet is

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5 connected to at least one explosion atomizing unit which is disposed and adapted such that atomized fuel fragments due to gas formation in the atomized fuel.

20

2. Combustion unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein

10 the explosion atomizing unit is an explosion swirl atomizing unit.

25

3. Combustion unit as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the explosion atomizing unit comprises means for adjusting the temperature of the fuel and/or the

15 atomizing pressure.

30

4. Combustion unit as claimed in claim 3, wherein the temperature adjusting means are suitable for adjusting the temperature of the fuel below, at or above the critical temperature of the fuel.

20 5. Combustion unit as claimed in claims 1-4, wherein the fuel is provided with agents for reducing the surface tension of the fuel.

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6. Combustion unit as claimed in claim 5, wherein the surface tension-reducing agents contain

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25 combustible and/or vaporizable substances.

7. Combustion unit as claimed in claims 1-6, wherein the fuel is a mixture of fuel and an evaporating agent having a boiling point lower than the boiling point of the fuel.

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30 8. Combustion unit as claimed in claim 7, wherein the evaporating agent is water.

9. Combustion unit as claimed in claims 1-8, wherein the explosion atomizing unit is accommodated in

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the combustion chamber and optionally a compression chamber of the combustion unit.

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10. Combustion unit as claimed in claim 9, wherein at least one pressure vessel in heat-exchanging contact with the flue gas outlet is arranged between the compression chamber and the combustion chamber.

15

11. Combustion unit as claimed in claim 10, wherein a catalyst for cracking fuel is arranged in the combustion chamber.

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12. System for generating power, comprising at least one gas turbine, at least one compression device driven by the gas turbine and at least one combustion unit as claimed in claims 1-11.

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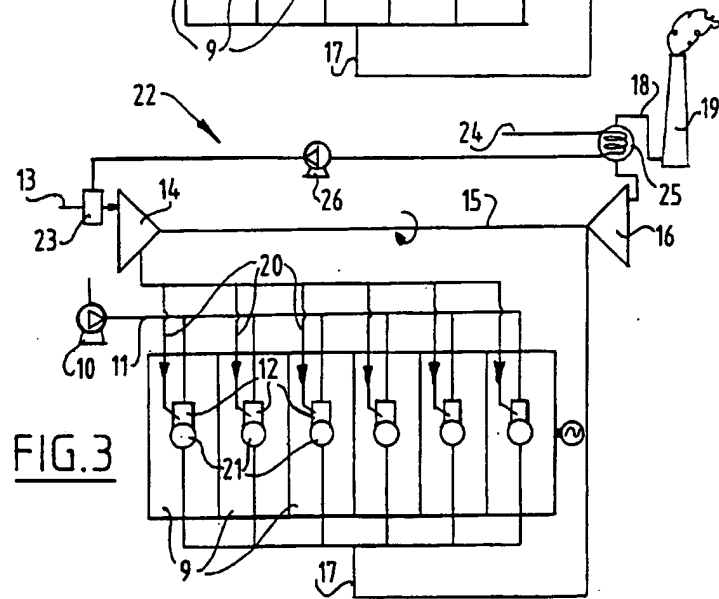
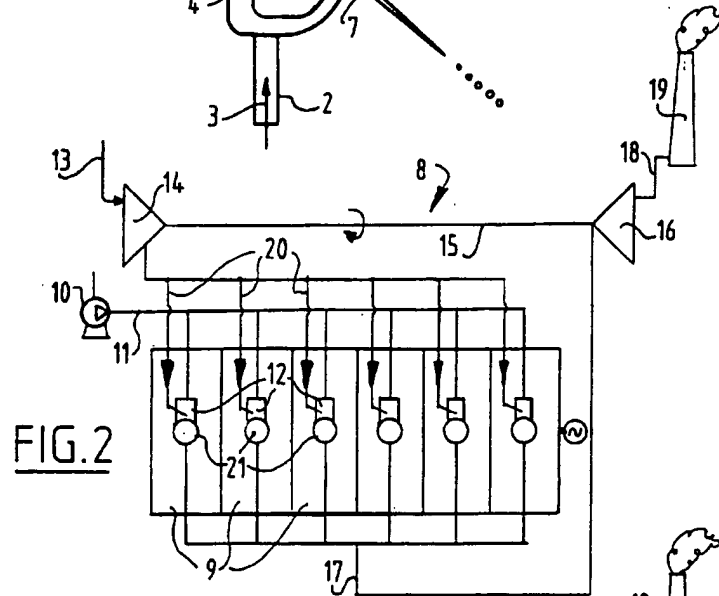
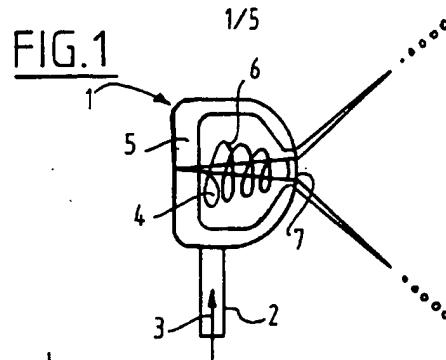
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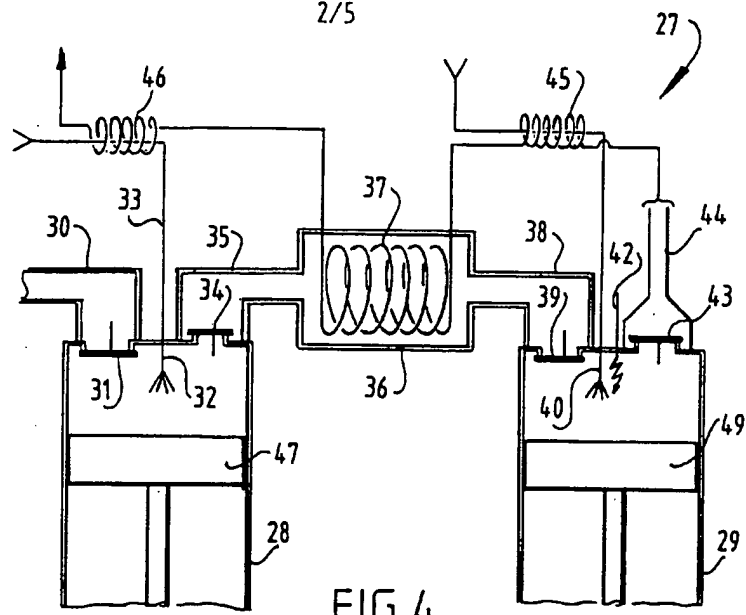


FIG. 4

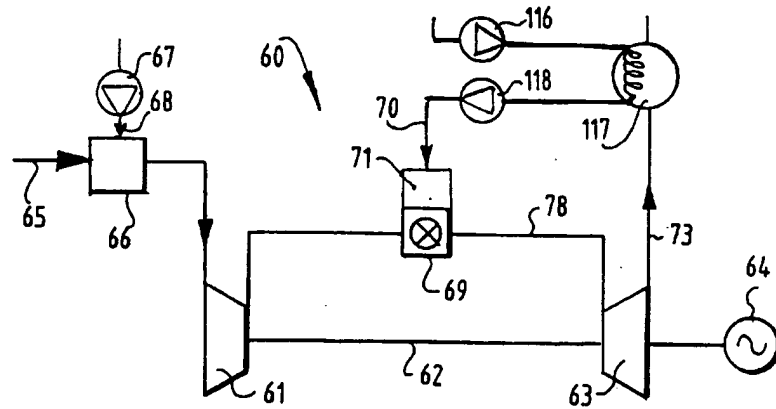


FIG. 7

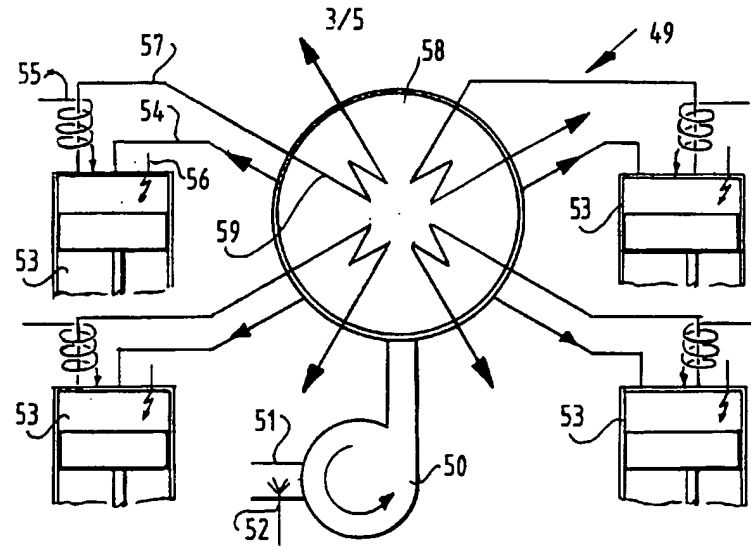


FIG. 5

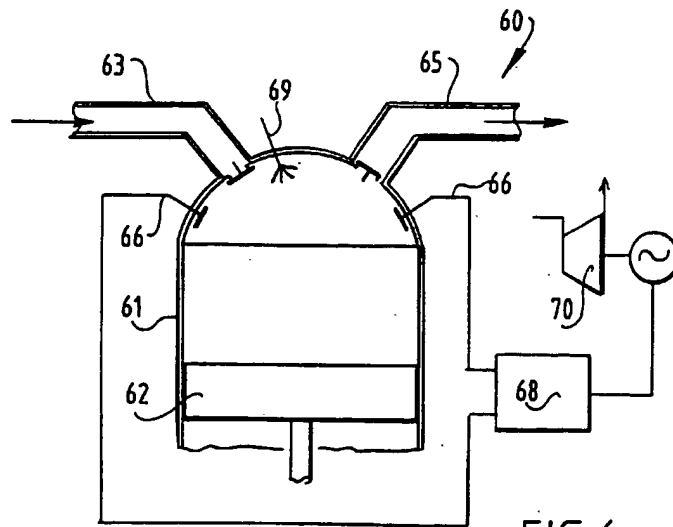
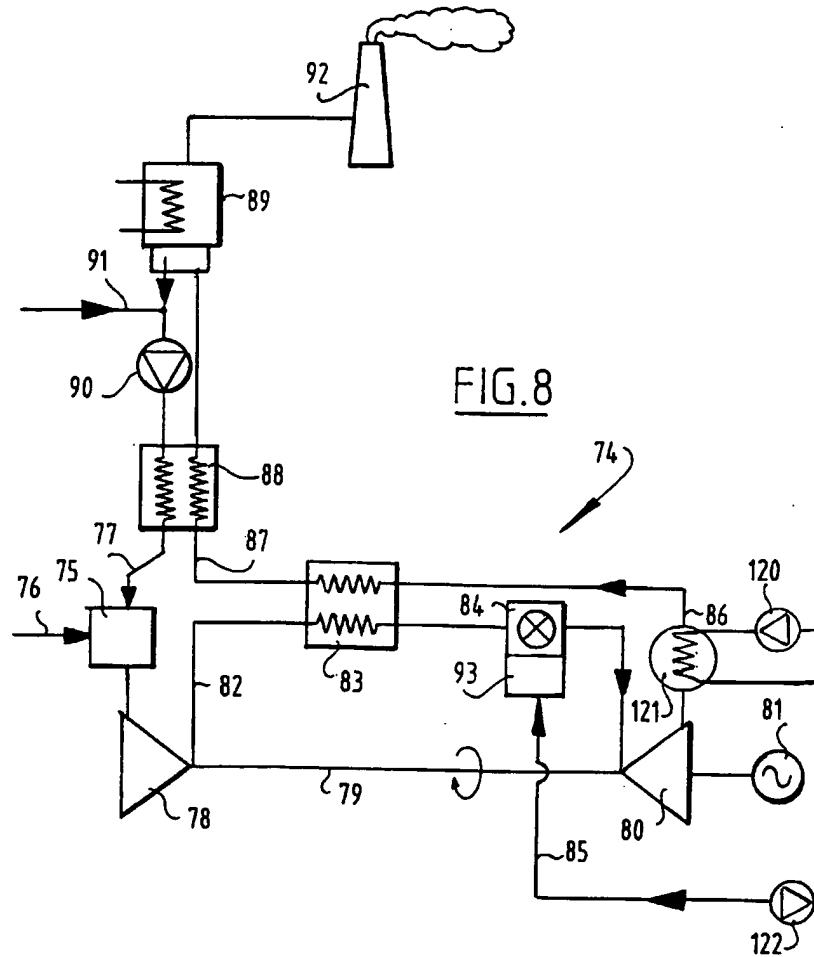
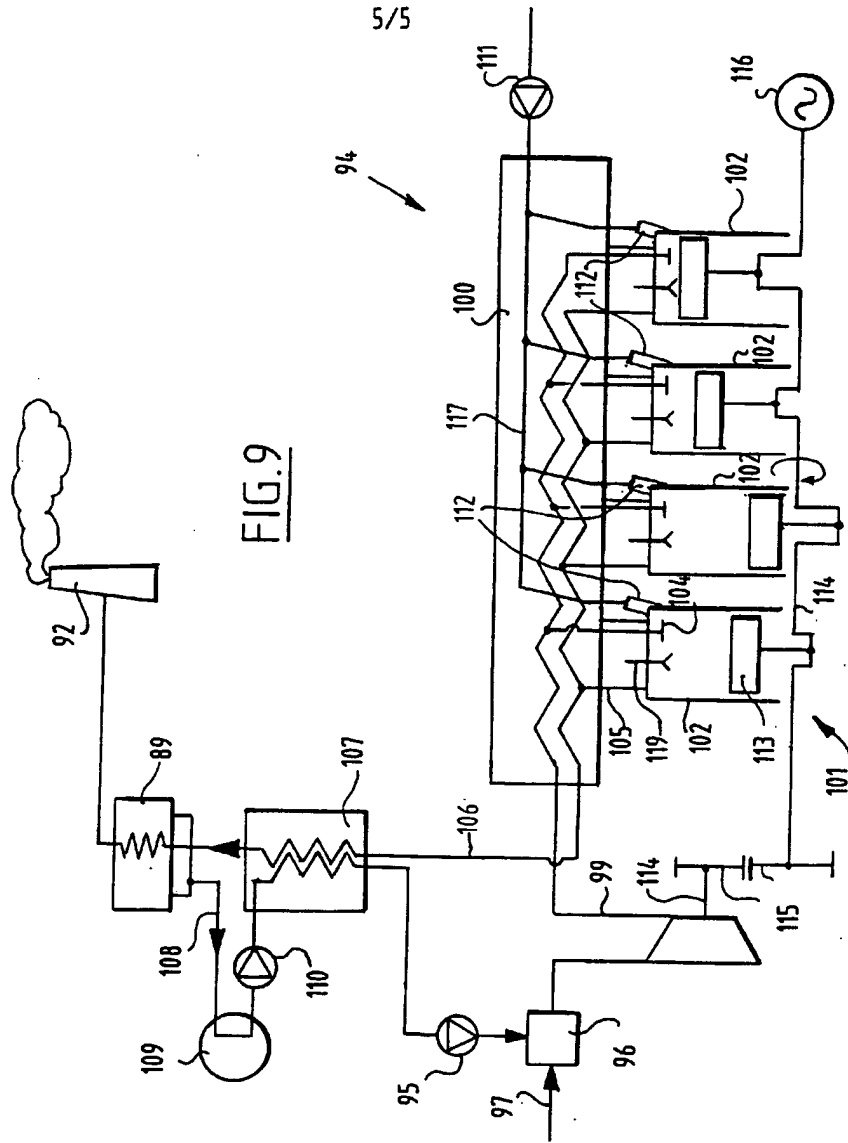


FIG. 6

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/NL 00/00110

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 F02B51/00 F02M53/06 F02C7/22		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 F02B F02M		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 596 210 A (SCHMIDTKE WOLFGANG) 24 June 1986 (1986-06-24) column 1, line 11 - line 17; claims 1-14	1-7
X	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 8708 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class J02, AN 1987-055648 XP002122487 & SU 1 242 250 A (UNIV DRUZHBY NARODOV), 7 July 1986 (1986-07-07) abstract	1-4
X	EP 0 790 395 A (TOYOTA MOTOR CO LTD) 20 August 1997 (1997-08-20)	1-6
Y	the whole document	5-7
-/--		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents : "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" documents which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "A" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 27 Apr11 2000		Date of mailing of the international search report 04/05/2000
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5618 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3018		Authorized officer Iverus, D

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Int. Application No
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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